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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

his is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53 (c) Type a plus sign (+) Docket Number P-15648 inside this box --> INVENTOR(s)/APPLICANT(s) LASTNAME MIDDLE NAME RESIDENCE (CITY AND EITHER STATE OR FOREIGN CODN'TRY) FIRST NAME Indianapolis, Indiana Beals John Michael Kuchibhotla Indianapolis, Indiana Uma TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max) HETEROLOGOUS G-CSF FUSION PROTEINS CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS Eli Lilly and Company Patent Division/D.C. 1104 Lilly Corporate Center PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE Indianapolis, Indiana 46285 STATE ZIP CODE COUNTRY IN 46285 USA ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply) Х Specification Number of pages 53 Small Entity Statement Number of Drawing(s) Other (Specify) Sheets METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one) **PROVISIONAL** A check or money order is enclosed to cover the Provisional filing fees FILING FEE \$160.00 The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to AMOUNT (\$) 05-0840 charge filing fees and credit Deposit Account Number: The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government. X No. Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number Respectfully submitted SIGNATURE Date 03/05/02 REGISTRATION NO. 43.936 TYPED or PRINTED NAME (if appropriate) MARK J. STEWART Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT FILING ONLY "Express Mail" mailing label number EL018702675US Date of Deposit March 5, 2002

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HETEROLOGOUS G-CSF FUSION PROTEINS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to heterologous fusion proteins, including analogs and derivatives thereof, fused to proteins that have the effect of extending the in vivo half-life of the proteins. These fusion proteins are significant in human medicine, particularly in the treatment of conditions treatable by stimulation of circulating neutrophils, such as after chemotherapy regimens or in chronic congenital neutropenia. More specifically, the invention relates to novel heterologous fusion proteins with granulocyte-colony stimulating factor activity.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Among all blood cell lineages, the modulation of neutrophil and platelet production has been of highest interest to clinical oncologists and hematologists. Myelosuppression is the single most severe complication of cancer chemotherapy, and a major cause of treatment delay during multiple-cycle or combination chemotherapy. also the major dose-limiting factor for most chemotherapeutic agents. Due to the short half-lives of neutrophils in peripheral blood, life-threatening falls in

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neutrophil levels are seen after a number of conventional anti-tumor chemotherapy regimens.

The most prominent regulator of granulopoiesis is granulocyte-colony stimulating factor (G-CSF). G-CSF induces proliferation and differentiation of hematopoietic progenitor cells resulting in increased numbers of circulating neutrophils. G-CSF also stimulates the release of mature neutrophils from bone marrow and activates their functional state. [Souza L.M., et al. (1986) Science 232:61-65]. Thus, therapeutic proteins with G-CSF activity have tremendous value in situations where there are reduced circulating levels of neutrophilic granuloctyes.

However, the usefulness of therapy using G-CSF peptides has been limited by their short plasma half-life. they must be administered intravenously or subcutaneously at fairly frequent intervals (once or twice a day) in order to maintain their neutrophil stimulating properties. addition, this short half-life limits the performance of the drug to traditional drug delivery systems. It would clearly benefit the treatment of patients with abnormally low neutrophils, and reduce the discomfort and inconvenience associated with frequent injections to provide a pharmaceutical agent that could be administered less frequently and optionally by alternative routes of Thus, a need exists to develop agents that administration. stimulate the production of mature neutrophils and are more optimal in their duration of effect.

The present invention overcomes the problems associated with delivering a compound that has a short plasma half-life in two respects. First, G-CSF is hyperglycosylated. The carbohydrate content of G-CSF is altered by substituting amino acids that can act as substrates for glycosylating enzymes in mammalian cells. Most significantly, the present invention encompasses fusion of these hyperglycosylated G-

CSF analogs to another protein with a long circulating halflife such as the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin or albumin.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Compounds of the present invention include heterologous fusion proteins comprising a hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog fused to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of

- a) human albumin;
- b) human albumin analogs; and
- 10 c) fragments of human albumin.

Additional compounds of the present invention include a heterologous fusion protein comprising a hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog fused to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of

- a) the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin;
- b) an analog of the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin; and
- c) fragments of the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin. The hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog may be fused to the polypeptide via a peptide linker. It is preferable that the peptide linker is selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a glycine rich peptide;
 - b) a peptide having the sequence [Gly-Gly-Gly-Gly-Ser]_n where n is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; and
- c) a peptide having the sequence [Gly-Gly-Gly-Ser]3

One aspect of the present invention includes heterologous fusion proteins, wherein the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analogs have the Formula (I) [SEQ ID NO:1] 30

10 Thr Pro Leu Gly Pro Ala Ser Ser Leu Pro Gln Ser Phe Leu Leu Lys Xaa Leu Glu Gln Val Arg Lys Ile Gln Gly Asp Gly Ala Ala Leu Gln 35 Glu Lys Leu Cys Xaa Xaa Xaa Lys Leu Cys His Pro Glu Glu Leu Val Leu Leu Gly His Ser Leu Gly Ile Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa

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75 70 65 Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Gln Leu Ala Gly Cys Leu Ser Gln Leu His Ser 90 Gly Leu Phe Leu Tyr Gln Gly Leu Leu Gln Ala Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa Ser 105 5 Xaa Glu Leu Gly Pro Thr Leu Asp Thr Leu Gln Leu Asp Val Ala Asp 125 120 Phe Ala Thr Thr Ile Trp Gln Gln Met Glu Glu Leu Gly Met Ala Pro 140 135 130 Ala Leu Gln Pro Xaa Xaa Xaa Ala Met Pro Ala Phe Xaa Xaa Yaa Phe 10 150 155 Gln Arg Arg Ala Gly Gly Val Leu Val Ala Ser His Leu Gln Ser Phe 170 165 **(I)** Leu Glu Val Ser Tyr Arg Val Leu Arg His Leu Ala Gln Pro 15 wherein: Xaa at position 17 is Cys, Ala, Leu, Ser, or Glu; Xaa at position 37 is Ala or Asn; Xaa at position 38 is Thr, or any other amino acid except 20 Pro; Xaa at position 39 is Tyr, Thr, or Ser; Xaa at position 57 is Pro or Val; Xaa at position 58 is Trp or Asn; Xaa at position 59 is Ala or any other amino acid except 25 Xaa at position 60 is Pro, Thr, Asn, or Ser, Xaa at position 61 is Leu, or any other amino acid except Pro; Xaa at position 62 is Ser or Thr; Xaa at position 63 is Ser or Asn; 30 Xaa at position 64 is Cys or any other amino acid except Xaa at position 65 is Pro, Ser, or Thr; Xaa at position 66 is Ser or Thr; Xaa at position 67 is Gln or Asn; 35 Xaa at position 68 is Ala or any other amino acid except Pro; Xaa at position 69 is Leu, Thr, or Ser Xaa at position 93 is Glu or Asn Xaa at position 94 is Gly or any other amino acid except 40 Pro; Xaa at position 95 is Ile, Asn, Ser, or Thr; Xaa at position 97 is Pro, Ser, Thr, or Asn; Xaa at position 133 is Thr or Asn; Xaa at position 134 is Gln or any other amino acid except 45 Xaa at position 135 is Gly, Ser, or Thr Xaa at position 141 is Ala or Asn; Xaa at position 142 is Ser or any other amino acid except

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Pro; and

and wherein:

region 14;

Xaa at positions 37, 38, and 39 constitute region 1; Xaa at positions 58, 59, and 60 constitute region 2; Xaa at positions 59, 60, and 61 constitute region 3; Xaa at positions 60, 61, and 62 constitute region 4; Xaa at positions 61, 62, and 63 constitute region 5; Xaa at positions 62, 63, and 64 constitute region 6; Xaa at positions 63, 64, and 65 constitute region 7; Xaa at positions 64, 65, and 66 constitute region 8; Xaa at positions 67, 68, and 69 constitute region 9; Xaa at positions 93, 94, and 95 constitute region 10; Xaa at positions 94, 95, and Ser at position 96 constitute region 11; Xaa at positions 95, and 97, and Ser at position 96 constitute region 12; Xaa at positions 133, 134, and 135 constitute region 13;

and provided that at least one of regions 1 through 14 comprises the sequence Asn Xaa1 Xaa2 wherein Xaa1 is any amino acid except Pro and Xaa2 is Ser or Thr.

Xaa at positions 141, 142, and 143 constitute

Thus, the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention include analogs wherein one or any combination of two or more regions comprise the sequence Asn Xaa1 Xaa2 wherein Xaa1 is any amino acid except Pro and Xaa2 is Ser or Thr.

Preferred hyperglycosylated G-CSF analogs that make up part of the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention, include the following:

35 a) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T]

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- b) G-CSF[P57V,W58N,P60T]
- c) G-CSF[P60N, S62T]
- d) G-CSF[S63N, P65T]
- e) G-CSF[Q67N,L69T]
- 5 f) G-CSF[E93N, I95T]
 - g) G-CSF[T133N,G135T]
 - h) G-CSF[A141N,A143T]
 - i) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T]
 - j) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P60N, S62T]
- 10 k) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, S63N, P65T]
 - 1) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, Q67N, L69T]
 - m) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, E93N, I95T]
 - n) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, T133N, G135T]
 - o) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, A141N, A143T]
- 15 p) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T, S63N, P65T]
 - g) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T, Q67N, L69T]
 - r) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, S63N, P65T, E93N, I95T]

The present invention also includes heterologous fusion proteins, which are the product of the expression in a host cell of an exogenous DNA sequence, which comprises a DNA sequence encoding a heterologous fusion protein of Formula I (described above) fused to a DNA sequence encoding human albumin or the Fc portion of an immunolglobulin.

A hyperglcosylated heterologous fusion protein of the present invention also includes polynucleotides encoding the heterologous fusion protein described herein, vectors comprising these polynucleotides and host cells transfected or transformed with the vectors described herein. included is a process for producing a heterologous fusion. protein comprising the steps of transcribing and translating a polynucleotide described herein under conditions wherein the heterologous fusion protein is expressed in detectable amounts.

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The present invention encompasses a method for increasing neutrophil levels in a mammal comprising the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a heterologous fusion protein described above. The present invention also includes the use of the heterologous fusion proteins described above for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of patients with insufficient circulating neutrophil levels.

The present invention also encompasses a pharmaceutical formulation adapted for the treatment of patients with insufficient neutrophil levels comprising a glycosylated protein as described above.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention is further illustrated with reference to the following drawings:

Figure 1: Schematic illustrating fourteen regions in human G-CSF wherein the amino acid sequence can be mutated to create functional glycosylation sites.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises heterologous fusion proteins. As used herein, the term heterologous fusion protein means a hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog fused to human albumin, a human albumin analog, a human albumin fragment, the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin, an analog of the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin, or a fragment of the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin. The G-CSF analog may be fused directly, or fused via a peptide linker, to an albumin or Fc protein. The albumin and Fc portion may be fused to the G-CSF analogs at either terminus or at both termini. These heterologous fusion proteins are biologically active and have an increased half-life compared to native G-CSF.

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Hyperglycosylated G-CSF Analogs

Hyperglycosylated analogs of G-CSF as used herein refers to analogs of G-CSF with one or more changes in the amino acid sequence which result in an increase in the number of sites for carbohydrate attachment compared with native human G-CSF expressed in animal cells in vivo. addition, hyperglycosylated G-CSF analogs include human G-CSF wherein the O-linked glycosylation site at position 133 is replaced with an N-linked glycosylation site. Analogs are generated by site directed mutagenesis having substitution of amino acid residues creating new sites that are available for glycosylation. G-CSF analogs having a greater carbohydrate content than that found in native human G-CSF are generated by adding glycosylation sites that do not perturb the secondary, tertiary, and quaternary structure required for activity. The heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention thus have a larger mass and an increased negative charge compared to native G-CSF, they will not be as rapidly cleared from the circulation.

It is preferred that the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog portion of the heterologous fusion protein have 1, 2, 3, or 4 additional sites for N-glycosylation. illustrates fourteen different regions that can be glycosylated with very little effect on in vitro activity. Each region may be mutated to the consensus site for Nglycosylation addition which is Asn X1 X2 wherein X1 is any amino acid except Pro and X2 is Ser or Thr. It is preferred that the X1 amino acid be any other amino acid except Trp, Asp, Glu, or Leu and it is most preferred that the X1 amino acid be the naturally occurring amino acid. The scope of the present invention includes analogs wherein a single region (1 through 14) is mutated or wherein a region is mutated in combination with one or more other regions.

A representative number of fusion proteins having single of multiple additional glycosylation sites have been expressed, purified, and characterized. The mutated amino

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acids in the hyperglycosylated G-CSF portion of the heterologous fusion protein are identified in parentheses. For example, G-CSF[A37N,Y39T] is G-CSF wherein the amino acids at positions 37 and 39 have been substituted to create a glycosylation site. This site of carbohydrate attachment is illustrated as region 1 in Figure 1. G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,P57V,W58N,P60T] is an example of a G-CSF analog wherein amino acids in region 1 and region 2 are mutated to provide two functional glycosylation sites on a single molecule (Figure 1).

G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T, Q67N, L69T] is an example of a G-CSF analog wherein the amino acids in region 1, region 2, and region 9 are mutated to provide three functional glycosylation sites on a single molecule (Figure 1).

Native G-CSF can be used as the backbone to create the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog portion of a particular heterologous fusion protein. In addition, the native G-CSF backbone can be modified such that substitutions in the regions defined in Figure 1 are made in the context of a different or improved heterologous fusion protein. For example, native G-CSF with a Cysteine to Alanine substitution at position 17 may reduce aggregation and enhance stability and thus, can be used as the backbone used to create the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog portion of the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention.

In addition, Reidhaar-Olson, et al., through alanine scanning mutagenesis, describe residues critical to the activity of human G-CSF. [Reidhaar-Olson, et al. (1996) Biochemistry 35:9034-9041; See also Young, et al. (1997) Protein Science 6:1228-1236]. Thus, the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analogs can be modified by substituting amino acids outside the glycosylated regions described in Figure 1.

The heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention also encompass G-CSF analogs wherein the O-linked glycosylation site at position 133 is mutated to serve as an N-linked glycosylation site. The N-linked carbohydrate will generally have a higher sialic acid content which will protect it from the rapid clearance mechanisms associated with native G-CSF.

The functions of a carbohydrate chain greatly depend on the structure of the attached carbohydrate moiety. Typically compounds with a higher sialic acid content will have better stability and longer half-lives in vivo. The N-linked oligosaccharides contain sialic acid in both an $\alpha 2,3$ and an $\alpha 2,6$ linkage to galactose. [Takeuchi, et al. (1988) J. Biol. Chem. 263:3657]. Typically the sialic acid in the $\alpha 2,3$ linkage is added to galactose on the mannose $\alpha 1,6$ branch and the sialic acid in the $\alpha 2,6$ linkage is added to the galactose on the mannose $\alpha 1,3$ branch. The enzymes that add these sialic acids (β -galactoside $\alpha 2,3$ sialyltransferase and β -galactoside $\alpha 2,6$ sialyltransferase) are most efficient at adding sialic acid to the mannose $\alpha 1,6$ and mannose $\alpha 1,3$ branches respectively.

Tetra-antennary N-linked oligosachharides most commonly provide four possible sites for sialic acid attachment while bi- and tri-antennary oligosaccharide chains, which can substitute for the tetra-antennary form at Asn-liked sites, commonly have at most only two or three sialic acids attached. O-linked oligosaccharides commonly provide only two sites for sialic acid attachement. Mammalian cell cultures can be screened for those cells that preferentially add teta-antennary chains to the G-CSF analogs of the present invention, thereby maximizing the number of sites for sialic acid attachment. Different types of mammalian cells also differ with respect to the transferase enzymes present and consequently the sialic acid content and type of oligosachharide attached at each site. One way to optimize the carbohydrate content for a given G-CSF analog is to

express the analog in a cell line wherein an expression plasmid containing DNA encoding a specific sialyl transferase (e.g., $\alpha 2.6$ sialyltrasnferase) is co-transfected with the G-CSF analog expression plasmid.

5 Alternatively a host cell line may be stably transfected with a sialyl transferase cDNA and that host cell used to express the G-CSF analog of interest. Thus, it is preferable if the oligosaccharide structure and sialic acid content are optimized for each analog encompassed by the present invention.

Heterologous Fc fusion proteins:

The hyperglycosylated G-CSF analogs described above can be fused directly or via a peptide linker to the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin. For example SEQ ID NO:23 represents the sequence of a G-CSF-IgG1 Fc fusion protein, SEQ ID NO:24 represents the sequence of a G-CSF-IgG4 Fc fusion protein, and SEQ ID NO:25 represents the sequence of a G-CSF-human albumin fusion protein.

Immunoglobulins are molecules containing polypeptide chains held together by disulfide bonds typically having two light chains and two heavy chains. In each chain, one domain (V) has a variable amino acid sequence depending on the antibody specificity of the molecule. The other domains (C) have a rather constant sequence common to molecules of the same class.

As used herein, the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin has the meaning commonly given to the term in the field of immunology. Specifically, this term refers to an antibody fragment which is obtained by removing the two antigen binding regions (the Fab fragments) from the antibody. Thus, the Fc portion is formed from approximately equal sized fragments of the constant region from both heavy chains, which associate through non-covalent interactions and disulfide bonds. The Fc portion can include the hinge regions and extend through the CH2 and CH3 domains to the C-

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terminus of the antibody. For example, SEQ ID NOs: 18 and 19 represent the sequence of a Fc region encompassing the hinge region as well as the CH2 and CH3 domains. Other representative hinge regions for human and mouse immunoglobulins can be found in Antibody Engineering, A Practical Guide, Borrebaeck, C.A.K., ed., W.H. Freeman and Co., 1992, the teachings of which are herein incorporated by reference.

There are five types of human immunoglobulin Fc regions with different effector and pharmacokinetic properties: IgG, IgA, IgM, IgD, and IgE. IgG is the most abundant immunoglobulin in serum. IgG also has the longest half-life in serum of any immunoglobulin (23 days). Unlike other immunoglobulins, IgG is efficiently recirculated following binding to an Fc receptor. There are four IgG subclasses G1, G2, G3, and G4, each of which have different effector functions. G1, G2, and G3 can bind C1q and fix complement while G4 cannot. Even though G3 is able to bind C1q more efficiently than G1, G1 is more effective at mediating complement-directed cell lysis. G2 fixes complement very inefficiently. The C1q binding site in IgG is located at the carboxy terminal region of the CH2 domain.

All IgG subclasses are capable of binding to Fc receptors (CD16, CD32, CD64) with G1 and G3 being more effective than G2 and G4. The Fc receptor-binding region of IgG is formed by residues located in both the hinge and the carboxy terminal regions of the CH2 domain.

IgA can exist both in a monomeric and dimeric form held together by a J-chain. IgA is the second most abundant Ig in serum, but it has a half-life of only 6 days. IgA has three effector functions. It binds to an IgA specific receptor on macrophages and eosinophils, which drives phagocytosis and degranulation, respectively. It can also fix complement via an unknown alternative pathway.

IgM is expressed as either a pentamer or a hexamer, both of which are held together by a J-chain. IgM has a

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serum half-life of 5 days. It binds weakly to Clq via a binding site located in its CH3 domain. IgD has a half-life of 3 days in serum. It is unclear what effector functions are attributable to this Ig. IgE is a monomeric Ig and has a serum half-life of 2.5 days. IgE binds to two Fc receptors which drives degranulation and results in the release of pro-inflammatory agents.

Depending on the desired in vivo effect, the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention may contain any of the isotypes described above or may contain mutated Fc regions wherein the complement and/or Fc receptor binding functions have been altered. For example, one embodiment of the present invention is a heterologous fusion protein wherein the Fc portion comprises a human IgG4 sequence wherein serine at position 229 is changed to proline which reduces the effector function of the protein. (See SEQ ID NO: 22).

The heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention may contain the entire Fc portion of an immunoglobulin, fragments of the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin, or analogs thereof fused to a G-CSF analog. Furthermore, the Fc portion may be fused at either terminus or at both termini.

The heterologous fusion proteins of the present

invention can consist of single chain proteins or as multichain polypeptides. Two or more Fc fusion proteins can be
produced such that they interact through disulfide bonds
that naturally form between Fc regions. These multimers can
be homogeneous with respect to the G-CSF analog or they may
contain different G-CSF analogs fused at the N-terminus of
the Fc portion of the fusion protein.

Regardless of the final structure of the fusion protein, the Fc or Fc-like region serves to prolong the in vivo plasma half-life of the G-CSF analog compared to native G-CSF. Furthermore, the fused G-CSF analog must retain some

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biological activity. Biological activity can be determined by in vitro and in vivo methods known in the art.

Since the Fc region of IgG produced by proteolysis has the same in vivo half-life as the intact IgG molecule and Fab fragments are rapidly degraded, it is believed that the relevant sequence for prolonging half-life resides in the CH2 and/or CH3 domains. Further, it has been shown in the literature that the catabolic rates of IgG variants that do not bind the high-affinity Fc receptor or Clq are indistinguishable from the rate of clearance of the parent wild-type antibody, indicating that the catabolic site is distinct from the sites involved in Fc receptor or Clq [Wawrzynczak et al., (1992) Molecular Immunology binding. Site-directed mutagenesis studies using a murine IgG1 Fc region suggested that the site of the IgG1 Fc region that controls the catabolic rate is located at the CH2-CH3 domain interface.

Based on these studies, Fc regions can be modified at the catabolic site to optimize the half-life of the fusion proteins. It is preferable that the Fc region used for the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention be derived from an IgG1 such as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 21 or an IgG4 Fc region such as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 22. It is even more preferable that the Fc region be IgG4 or derived from IgG4. Preferably the IgG Fc region contains both the CH2 and CH3 regions including the hinge region.

Heterologous albumin fusion proteins:

The G-CSF analogs described above can be fused directly or via a peptide linker to albumin or an analog, fragment, or derivative thereof. SEQ ID NO:25 provides a representative G-CSF-human albumin fusion protein.

Generally the albumin proteins making up part of the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention can be derived from albumin cloned from any species. However,

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human albumin and fragments and analogs thereof are preferred to reduce the risk of the fusion protein being immunogenic in humans. Human serum albumin (HA) consists of a single non-glycosylated polypeptide chain of 585 amino acids with a formula molecular weight of 66,500. acid sequence of human albumin is represented as SEQ ID NO: [See Meloun, et al. (1975) FEBS Letters 58:136; Behrens, et al. (1975) Fed. Proc. 34:591; Lawn, et al. (1981) Nucleic Acids Research 9:6102-6114; Minghetti, et al. (1986) J. Biol. Chem. 261:6747]. A variety of polymorphic variants as well as analogs and fragments of albumin have been described. [See Weitkamp, et al., (1973) Ann. Hum. Genet. 37:219]. For example, in EP 322,094, the inventors disclose various shorter forms of HA. Some of these fragments include HA(1-373), HA(1-388), HA(1-389), HA(1-369), and HA(1-419) and fragments between 1-369 and 1-419. EP 399,666 discloses albumin fragments that include HA(1-177) and HA(1-200) and fragments between HA(1-177) and HA(1-177)200).

It is understood that the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention include hyperglycosylated G-CSF analogs that are coupled to any albumin protein including fragments, analogs, and derivatives wherein such fusion protein is biologically active and has a longer plasma half-25 life than native G-CSF. Thus, the albumin portion of the fusion protein need not necessarily have a plasma half-life equal to that of native human albumin. In addition, the albumin may be fused to either terminus or both termini of the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog.

The heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention encompass proteins having conservative amino acid substitutions in the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog and/or the Fc or albumin portion of the fusion protein.

The term "amino acid" is used herein in its broadest sense, and includes naturally occurring amino acids as well as non-naturally occurring amino acids, including amino acid

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analogs and derivatives. The latter includes molecules containing an amino acid moiety. One skilled in the art will recognize, in view of this broad definition, that reference herein to an amino acid includes, for example, naturally occurring proteogenic L-amino acids; D-amino acids; chemically modified amino acids such as amino acid analogs and derivatives; naturally occurring non-proteogenic amino acids such as norleucine, β -alanine, ornithine, GABA, etc.; and chemically synthesized compounds having properties known in the art to be characteristic of amino acids. As used herein, the term "proteogenic" indicates that the amino acid can be incorporated into a peptide, polypeptide, or protein in a cell through a metabolic pathway.

The incorporation of non-natural amino acids, including synthetic non-native amino acids, substituted amino acids, or one or more D-amino acids into the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention can be advantageous in a number of different ways. D-amino acid-containing peptides, etc., exhibit increased stability in vitro or in vivo compared to L-amino acid-containing counterparts. construction of peptides, etc., incorporating D-amino acids can be particularly useful when greater intracellular stability is desired or required. More specifically, Dpeptides, etc., are resistant to endogenous peptidases and proteases, thereby providing improved bioavailability of the molecule, and prolonged lifetimes in vivo when such properties are desirable. Additionally, D-peptides, etc., cannot be processed efficiently for major histocompatibility complex class II-restricted presentation to T helper cells, and are therefore less likely to induce humoral immune responses in the whole organism.

Although the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention can be made by a variety of different methods, recombinant methods are preferred.

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Construction of DNA encoding the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention:

Wild type albumin and immunoglobulin proteins can be obtained from a variety of sources. For example, these proteins can be obtained from a cDNA library prepared from tissue or cells which express the mRNA of interest at a detectable level. Libraries can be screened with probes designed using the published DNA or protein sequence for the particular protein of interest.

Screening a cDNA or genomic library with the selected probe may be conducted using standard procedures, such as described in Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, NY (1989). An alternative means to isolate a gene encoding an albumin or immunoglobulin protein is to use PCR methodology [Sambrook et al., supra; Dieffenbach et al., PCR Primer: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, NY (1995)]. PCR primers can be designed based on published sequences.

Generally the full-length wild-type sequences cloned from a particular species can serve as a template to create analogs, fragments, and derivatives that retain the ability to confer a longer plasma half-life on the G-CSF analog that is part of the fusion protein. It is preferred that the Fc and albumin portions of the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention be derived from the native human sequence in order to reduce the risk of potential immunogenicity of the fusion protein in humans.

In particular, it is preferred that the immunoglobulin portion of a fusion protein encompassed by the present invention contain only an Fc fragment of the immunoglobulin. Depending on whether particular effector functions are desired and the structural characteristics of the fusion protein, an Fc fragment may contain the hinge region along with the CH2 and CH3 domains or some other combination thereof. These Fc fragments can be generated using PCR

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techniques with primers designed to hybridize to sequences corresponding to the desired ends of the fragment. Similarly, if fragments of albumin are desired, PCR primers can be designed which are complementary to internal albumin sequences. PCR primers can also be designed to create restriction enzyme sites to facilitate cloning into expression vectors.

DNA encoding human G-CSF can be obtained from a cDNA library prepared from tissue or cells which express G-CSF mRNA at a detectable level such as monocytes, macrophages, vascular endothelial cells, fibroblasts, and some human malignant and leukemic myeloblastic cells. Libraries can be screened with probes designed using the published DNA sequence for human G-CSF. [Souza L., et al. (1986) Science 232:61-65]. Screening a cDNA or genomic library with the selected probe may be conducted using standard procedures, such as described in Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, NY (1989). An alternative means to isolate the gene encoding human G-CSF is to use PCR methodology [Sambrook, et al., supra; Dieffenbach, et al., PCR Primer: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, NY (1995)].

The glycosylated G-CSF analogs of the present invention can be constructed by a variety of mutagenesis techniques well known in the art. Specifically, a representative number of glycosylated G-CSF analogs were constructed using mutagenic PCR from a cloned wild-type human G-CSF DNA template (Example 1).

The glycosylated G-CSF analogs of the present invention may be produced by other methods including recombinant DNA technology or well known chemical procedures, such as solution or solid-phase peptide synthesis, or semi-synthesis in solution beginning with protein fragments coupled through conventional solution methods.

Recombinant DNA methods are preferred for producing the glycosylated G-CSF analogs of the present invention. Host

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cells are transfected or transformed with expression or cloning vectors described herein for glycosylated G-CSF analog production and cultured in conventional nutrient media modified as appropriate for inducing promoters, selecting transformants, or amplifying the genes encoding the desired sequences (Example 2). The culture conditions, such as media, temperature, pH and the like, can be selected by the skilled artisan without undue experimentation

Physical stability is an essential feature for therapeutic formulations. The physical stability of the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention depends on their conformational stability, the number of charged residues (pI of the protein), the ionic strength and pH of the formulation, and the protein concentration, among other possible factors. As discussed previously, the G-CSF analog portion of the heterologous fusion proteins can be successfully glycosylated and expressed such that the three dimensional structure is maintained. Because these heterologous fusion proteins are able to fold properly in a hyperglycosylated state, they will have improved conformational and physical stability relative to wild-type G-CSF.

While wild-type G-CSF produced in mammalian cells and bacterial cells has similar activity in vivo, the mammalian cell-produced protein has increased conformational and physical stability due to the presence of a single O-linked sugar moiety present at position 133. Thus, the G-CSF analog portion of the heterologus fusion proteins, which has an increased glycosylation content compared to wild-type G-CSF produced in mammalian or bacterial cells, will confer increased stability on the heterologous fusion protein. Furthermore, it is likely that glycosylation may inhibit inter-domain interactions and consequently enhance stability by preventing inter-domain disulfide shuffling.

35 The gene encoding a heterologous fusion protein can be constructed by ligating DNA encoding a G-CSF analog in-frame

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to DNA encoding an albumin or Fc protein. The gene encoding the G-CSF analog and the gene encoding the albumin or Fc protein can also be joined in-frame via DNA encoding a linker peptide.

The in vivo function and stability of the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention can be optimized by adding small peptide linkers to prevent potentially unwanted domain interactions. Although these linkers can potentially be any length and consist of any combination of amino acids, it is preferred that the length be no longer than necessary to prevent unwanted domain interactions and/or optimize biological activity and/or stability. Generally, the linkers should not contain amino acids with extremely bulky side chains or amino acids likely to introduce significant secondary structure. It is preferred that the linker be serine-glycine rich and be less than 30 amino acids in It is more preferred that the linker be no more than 20 amino acids in length. It is even more preferred that the linker be no more than 15 amino acids in length. preferred linker contains repeats of the sequence Gly-Gly-Gly-Gly-Ser. It is preferred that there be between 2 and 6 repeats of this sequence. It is even more preferred that there be between 3 and 4 repeats of this sequence.

To construct the heterolgous G-CSF fusion proteins, the DNA encoding wild-type G-CSF, albumin, and Fc polypeptides and fragments thereof can be mutated either before ligation or in the context of a cDNA encoding an entire fusion protein. A variety of mutagenesis techniques are well known in the art. For example, a mutagenic PCR method utilizes strand overlap extension to create specific base mutations for the purposes of changing a specific amino acid sequence in the corresponding protein. This PCR mutagenesis requires the use of four primers, two in the forward orientation (primers A and C) and two in the reverse orientation (primers B and D). A mutated gene is amplified from the wild-type template in two different stages. The first

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reaction amplifies the gene in halves by performing an A to B reaction and a separate C to D reaction wherein the B and C primers target the area of the gene to be mutated. When aligning these primers with the target area, they contain mismatches for the bases that are targeted to be changed. Once the A to B and C to D reactions are complete, the reaction products are isolated and mixed for use as the template for the A to D reaction. This reaction then yields the full, mutated product.

Once a gene encoding an entire fusion protein is produced it can be cloned into an appropriate expression vector. Specific strategies that can be employed to make the G-CSF fusion proteins of the present invention are described in example 1.

General methods to recombinantly express the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention:

Host cells are transfected or transformed with expression or cloning vectors described herein for heterologous fusion protein production and cultured in conventional nutrient media modified as appropriate for inducing promoters, selecting transformants, or amplifying the genes encoding the desired sequences. The culture conditions, such as media, temperature, pH and the like, can be selected by the skilled artisan without undue experimentation. In general, principles, protocols, and practical techniques for maximizing the productivity of cell cultures can be found in Mammalian Cell Biotechnology: A Practical Approach, M. Butler, ed. (IRL Press, 1991) and Sambrook, et al., supra. Methods of 30 transfection are known to the ordinarily skilled artisan, for example, CaPO, and electroporation. General aspects of mammalian cell host system transformations have been described in U.S. Patent No. 4,399,216. Transformations into yeast are typically carried out according to the method of van Solingen, et al., J Bact. 130(2): 946-7 (1977) and Hsiao, et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 76(8): 3829-33 (1979). Suitable host

cells for the expression of the fusion proteins of the present invention are derived from multicellular organisms.

The fusion proteins of the present invention may be recombinantly produced directly, or as a protein having a signal sequence or other additional sequences which create a specific cleavage site at the N-terminus of the mature fusion protein. In general, the signal sequence may be a component of the vector, or it may be a part of the fusion proteinencoding DNA that is inserted into the vector. The signal sequence may be a prokaryotic signal sequence selected, for example, from the group of the alkaline phosphatase, penicillinase, lpp, or heat-stable enterotoxin II leaders. For yeast secretion the signal sequence may be, e.g., the yeast invertase leader, alpha factor leader (including Saccharomyces and Kluyveromyces cc-factor leaders, the latter described in U.S. Patent No. 5,010,182), or acid phosphatase leader, the C. albicans glucoamylase leader (EP 362,179), or the signal described in WO 90/13646. In mammalian cell expression, mammalian signal sequences may be used to direct secretion of the protein, such as signal sequences from secreted polypeptides of the same or related species as well as viral secretory leaders.

An example of suitable selectable markers for mammalian cells are those that enable the identification of cells 25 competent to take up the fusion protein-encoding nucleic acid, such as DHFR or thymidine kinase. An appropriate host cell when wild-type DHFR is employed is the CHO cell line deficient in DHFR activity, prepared and propagated as described [Urlaub and Chasin, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 77(7): 4216-20 (1980)]. A suitable selection gene for use in yeast is the 30 trpl gene present in the yeast plasmid Yrp7 [Stinchcomb, et al., Nature 282(5734): 39-43 (1979); Kingsman, et al., Gene 7(2): 141-52 (1979); Tschumper, et al., Gene 10(2): 157-66 (1980)]. The trpl gene provides a selection marker for a 35 mutant strain of yeast lacking the ability to grow in

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tryptophan, for example, ATCC No. 44076 or PEPC1 [Jones, Genetics 85: 23-33 (1977)].

Various forms of a fusion protein may be recovered from culture medium or from host cell lysates. If membrane-bound, it can be released from the membrane using a suitable detergent solution (e.g., Triton-X 100) or by enzymatic cleavage. Cells employed in expression of a fusion protein can be disrupted by various physical or chemical means, such as freeze-thaw cycling, sonication, mechanical disruption, or cell lysing agents.

Purification of the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention:

Once the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention are expressed in the appropriate host cell, the analogs can be isolated and purified. The following procedures are exemplary of suitable purification procedures:

Various methods of protein purification may be employed and such methods are known in the art and described, for example, in Deutscher, Methods in Enzymology 182: 83-9 (1990) and Scopes, Protein Purification: Principles and Practice, Springer-Verlag, NY (1982). The purification step(s) selected will depend on the nature of the production process used and the particular fusion protein produced. For example, fusion proteins comprising an Fc fragment can be effectively purified using a Protein A or Protein G affinity matix. Low or high pH buffers can be used to elute the fusion protein from the affinity matrix. Mild elution conditions will aid in preventing irreversible denaturation of the fusion protein. Imidazole-containing buffers can also be used. Example 3 describes some successful purification protocols for the fusion proteins of the present invention.

Characterization of the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention:

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Numerous methods exist to characterize the fusion proteins of the present invention. Some of these methods include: SDS-PAGE coupled with protein staining methods or immunoblotting using anti-IgG, anti-HA and anti-G-CSF antibodies. Other methods include matrix assisted laser desporption/ionization-mass spectrometry (MALDI-MS), liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry, isoelectric focusing, analytical anion exchange, chromatofocussing, and circular dichroism to name a few. A representative number of heterologous fusion proteins were characterized using SDS-PAGE coupled with immunoblotting as well as mass spectrometry

For example, Table 2 illustrates the calculated molecular mass for a representative number of fusion proteins as well as the observed mass (as measured by protease mapping/LC-MS). The relative differences between observed mass and mass calculated for a nonglycosylated protein are indicative of the extent of glycosylation.

Table 2

Construct	Theoretical mass (kDa)	Observed mass (kDa)
C17A (GCSF)-IgG1 Fc	89.4	93.0
C17A (GCSF)-IgG4 Fc	88.7	92.7
C17A (GCSF)-HSA	86.0	85.1
C17A, A37N, S63N, E93N (GCSF)-IgG1 Fc	89.4	97-114 (104.7)
C17A, A37N, S63N, E93N (GCSF)-IgG4 Fc	88.7	96-112 (103.8)
C17A, A37N, S63N, E93N (GCSF)-HSA	86.0	87-98 (92.5)
C17A, A37N, W58N, Q67N (GCSF)-IgG1 Fc	89.3	95-110 (103.8)
C17A, A37N, W58N, Q67N (GCSF)-IgG4 Fc	88.8	95-110 (102.4)
C17A, A37N, W58N, Q67N (GCSF)-HSA	85.9	87-98 (93.1)

Administration and Preparation of Compositions:

The heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention may be formulated with one or more excipients. The active

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fusion proteins of the present invention may be combined with a pharmaceutically acceptable buffer, and the pH adjusted to provide acceptable stability, and a pH acceptable for adminstration such as parenteral administration.

Optionally, one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable antimicrobial agents may be added. Meta-cresol and phenol are preferred pharmaceutically-acceptable microbial agents. One or more pharmaceutically-acceptable salts may be added to adjust the ionic strength or tonicity. One or more excipients may be added to adjust the isotonicity of the formulation. Glycerin is an example of an isotonicity-adjusting excipient. Pharmaceutically acceptable means suitable for administration to a human or other animal and thus, does not contain toxic elements or undersirable contaminants and does not interfere with the activity of the active compounds therein.

A pharmaceutically-acceptable salt form of the heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention may be used in the present invention. Acids commonly employed to form acid addition salts are inorganic acids such as hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, hydriodic acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, and the like, and organic acids such as p-toluenesulfonic acid, methanesulfonic acid, oxalic acid, p-bromophenyl-sulfonic acid, carbonic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, benzoic acid, acetic acid, and the like. Preferred acid addition salts are those formed with mineral acids such as hydrochloric acid and hydrobromic acid.

Base addition salts include those derived from inorganic bases, such as ammonium or alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxides, carbonates, bicarbonates, and the like. Such bases useful in preparing the salts of this invention thus include sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide, potassium carbonate, and the like.

Administration may be via any route known to be effective 35 by the physician of ordinary skill. Peripheral parenteral is one such method. Parenteral administration is commonly

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understood in the medical literature as the injection of a dosage form into the body by a sterile syringe or some other mechanical device such as an infusion pump. Peripheral parenteral routes can include intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intraperitoneal routes of administration.

The heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention may also be amenable to administration by oral, rectal, nasal, or lower respiratory routes, which are non-parenteral routes. Of these non-parenteral routes, the lower respiratory route and the oral route are Dreferred.

The heterologous fusion proteins of the present invention can be used to treat patients with insufficient circulating neutrophil levels, typically those undergoing cancer chemotherapy.

An "effective amount" of the heterologous fusion protein is the quantity which results in a desired therapeutic and/or prophylactic effect without causing unacceptable side-effects when administered to a subject in need of G-CSF receptor stimulation. A "desired therapeutic effect" includes one or more of the following: 1) an amelioration of the symptom(s) associated with the disease or condition; 2) a delay in the onset of symptoms associated with the disease or condition; 3) increased longevity compared with the absence of the treatment; and 4) greater quality of life compared with the absence of the treatment.

The present invention comprises G-CSF compounds that have improved biochemical and biophysical properties by virtue of being fused to an albumin protein, an albumin fragment, an albumin analog, a Fc protein, a Fc fragment, or a Fc analog. These heterologous proteins can be successfully expressed in host cells, retain signaling activities associated with activation of the G-CSF receptor, and have prolonged half-lives.

EXAMPLES

Example 1: Construction of DNA encoding heterologous fusion proteins:

Table 1 provides the sequence of primers used to create functional glycosylation sites in different regions of the G-CSF protein (See Figure 1).

Table 1: Primer sequences used to introduce mutations into human G-CSF.

Mutation	A Primer*	B Primer*	C Primer*	D Primer*
WT	CF177[SEQ ID	CF178[SEQ ID	CF179[SEQ ID	CF176[SEQ ID
	NO:26]	NO:27]	NO:28]	NO:29]
	GTAAGCTTGCGT	GGGGCAGGGAGC	GGACAGTGCAGG	GAACCTCGAGGA
	CGACGCTAGCGG	TGGCTGGGCCCA	AAGCCACTCCAC	TCCTCATTAGGG
	CGCGCCGCCATG	GTGGAGTGGCTT	TGGGCCCAGCCA	CTGGGCAAGGTG
	GCCGGACCTGCC	CCTGCACTGTCC	GCTCCCTGCCCC	CCTTAAGACGCG
	ACCCAGAGCCCC	AGAGTGCACTGT	AGAGCTTCCTG	GTACGACACCTC
	ATGAAGCTG	G		CAGGAAGCTCTG
C17A	CF177[SEQ ID	C17Arev[SEQ	C17Afor[SEQ	CF176[SEQ ID
SacI	NO:30]	ID NO:31]	ID NO:32]	NO:33]
	GTAAGCTTGCGT	GCTCTAAGGCCT	GGGCCCAGC G AG	GAACCTCGAGGA
'	CGACGCTAGCGG	TGAGCAGGAAGC	CTCCCTGCCCCA	TCCTCATTAGGG
	<i>CGCGCCGCC</i> ATG	TCTGGGGCAGGG	GAGCTTCCTGCT	CTGGGCAAGGTG
	GCCGGACCTGCC	AGCTCGCTGGGC	CAAGGCCTTAGA	CCTTAAGACGCG
	ACCCAGAGCCCC	CCAGTGGAG	GCAAG	GTACGACACCTC
	ATGAAGCTG			CAGGAAGCTCTG
A37N, Y39T	CF177[SEQ ID	A37Nrev[SEQ	A37Nfor[SEQ	CF176[SEQ ID
SpeI	NO:34]	ID NO:35]	ID NO:36]	NO:37]
	GTAAGCTTGCGT	GTCCGAGCAGCA	GGCGCAGCGCTC	GAACCTCGAGGA
	CGACGCTAGCGG	CTAGTTCCTCGG	CAGGAGAAGCTG	TCC TCATTAGGG
	CGCGCCGCCATG	GGTGGCACAGCT	TGTAACACCACC	CTGGGCAAGGTG
	GCCGGACCTGCC	TG GT GGTG TT AC	AAGCTGTGCCAC	CCTTAAGACGCG
	ACCCAGAGCCCC	ACAGCTTCTCCT	CCCGAGGAACTA	GTACGACACCTC
	ATGAAGCTG	G	GTGCTG	CAGGAAGCTCTG
T133N,	CF177[SEQ ID	T133Nrev[SEQ	T133Nfor[SEQ	CF176[SEQ ID
G135T	NO:38]	ID NO:39]	ID NO:40]	NO:41]

	Eco47III	GTAAGCTTGCGT	GCCCGGCGCTGG	GGCCCCTGCCCT	GAACCTCGAGGA
		CGACGCTAGCGG	AAAGC GCT GGCG	GCAGCCCA A CCA	TCCTCATTAGGG
		<i>CGCGCCGCC</i> ATG	AAGGCCGGCATG	GACCGCCATGCC	CTGGGCAAGGTG
		GCCGGACCTGCC	GC GGT CTGG T TG	GGCCTTCGCCAG	CCTTAAGACGCG
		ACCCAGAGCCCC	GGCTGCAGGGCA	CGCTTTCCAGCG	GTACGACACCTC
		ATGAAGCTG	G		CAGGAAGCTCTG
	A141N,	CF177[SEQ ID	A141Nrev[SEQ	A141Nfor[SEQ	CF176[SEQ ID
	A143T	NO:42]	ID NO:43]	ID NO:44]	NO:45]
-	SapI	GTAAGCTTGCGT	GCCCGGCGCTGG	GGGAATGGCCCC	GAACCTCGAGGA
		CGACGCTAGCGG	AA G GTAGAGTTG	TGCTCTTCAGCC	TCCTCATTAGGG
		<i>CGCGCCGCC</i> ATG	AAGGCCGGCATG	CACCCAGGGTGC	CTGGGCAAGGTG
		GCCGGACCTGCC	GCACCCTGGGTG	CATGCCGGCCTT	CCTTAAGACGCG
		ACCCAGAGCCCC	GGCTGAAGAGCA	CAACTCTACCTT	GTACGACACCTC
		ATGAAGCTG	GGGGCCAT	CCAGCGCCGGGC	CAGGAAGCTCTG
				AG	
	P57V,	JCB128[SEQ	JCB136[SEQ	JCB137[SEQ	JCB129[SEQ
	W58N, P60T	ID NO:46]	ID NO:47]	ID NO:48]	ID NO:49]
	HpaI	GCTAGCGGCGCG	GCTCAGGGTAGC	GGGCATCGTTAA	GACTCGAGGATC
		CCACCATG	GTTAACGATGCC	CGCTACCCTGAG	CTCATTAGGGCT
			CAGAGAGTG	CAGCTG	GGG
	Q67N,L69T	JCB134[SEQ	JCB138[SEQ	JCB139[SEQ	JCB135[SEQ
	NaeI	ID NO:50]	ID NO:51]	ID NO:52]	ID NO:53]
		GCTAGCGGCGCG	CAAGCAGCCGGC	GCCCCAGCAACG	GACTCGAGGATC
	·	CCACCATGGCCG	CAGCTGGGTGGC	CCACCCAGCTGG	CTCATTAGGGCT
		GACCTGCCACCC	G TTGCTGGGGCA	CCGGCTGCTTGA	GGGCAAGGTGCC
		AG	GCTGCTCAG	G	TTAAGACGCGG
	P60N, S62T	JCB128[SEQ	JCB130[SEQ	JCB131[SEQ	JCB129 [SEQ
	SpeI	ID NO:54]	ID NO:55]	ID NO:56]	ID NO:57]
		GCTAGCGGCGCG	GGGGCAACTAGT	GCTAACCTGACT	GAC TCGAGGATC
		CCACCATG	CAGGTTAGCCCA	AGTTGCCCCAGC	CTCATTAGGGCT
			GGG	CAG	GGG
	S63N, P65T	JCB128[SEQ	JCB132 [SEQ	JCB133[SEQ	JCB129[SEQ
	MfeI	ID NO:58]	ID NO:59]	ID NO:60]	ID NO:61]
		•		•	

GGTGCAATTGCT

CAGGGGAGCCCA

GCTAGCGGCGCG

CCACCATG

GACTCGAGGATC

CTCATTAGGGCT

GCAATTGCACCA

GCCAGGCCCTG

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		G		GGG
E93N, 195T	JCB134[SEQ	JCB140[SEQ	JCB141[SEQ	JCB135[SEQ
BspEI	ID NO:62]	ID NO:63]	ID NO:64]	ID NO:65]
	GCTAGCGGCGCG	CCGGACTGGTCC	GAACGGGACCAG	GAC TCGAGGATC
	CCACCATGGCCG	CGTTCAGGGCCT	TCCGGAGTTGGG	CTCATTAGGGCT
	GACCTGCCACCC	GCAGGAGCCCCT	TCCCACCTTGG	GGGCAAGGTGCC
	AG	G		TTAAGACGCGG

Sall	JCB155[SEQ		<u>.</u>
	ID NO:66]		
	GTCGACGCTAGC		
	GGCGCGCCACCA		
	TGGCCGGACCTG		

*Nucleotides in bold represent changes imposed in the target sequence and nucleotides in bold <u>and</u> italics represent flanking sequences which may add restriction sites to facilitate cloning, Kozac sequences, or stop codons.

Preparation 1a: DNA encoding wild-type human G-CSF

A strand overlapping extension PCR reaction was used to create a wild type human G-CSF construct in order to eliminate the methylation of an ApaI site. Isolated human G-CSF cDNA served as the template for these reactions. The 5' end A primer was used to create a restriction enzyme site prior to the start of the coding region as well as to introduce a Kozac sequence (GGCGCC) 5' of the coding leader sequence to faciliate translation in cell culture.

The A-B product was generated using primers CF177 and CF178 in a PCR reaction. Likewise, the C-D product was produced with primers CF179 and CF176. The products were isolated and combined. The combined mixture was then used as a template with primers CF177 and CF178 to create the full-length wild-type construct. [Nelson, R.M. and Long, G.C. (1989), Anal. Biochem. 180:147-151].

The full-length product was ligated into the pCR2.1-Topo vector (Invitrogen, Inc. Cat. No. K4500-40) by way of a topoisomerase TA overhang system to create pCR2.1G-CSF. The following protocol was used for preparation of the

full-length wild-type G-CSF protein as well as each of the G-CSF analogs. Approximately 5 ng of template DNA and 15 pmol of each primer was used in the initial PCR reactions. The reactions were prepared using Platinum PCR Supermix® (GibcoBRL Cat. No. 11306-016). The PCR reactions were denatured at 94°C for 5 min and then subject to 25 cycles wherein each cycle consisted of 30 seconds at 94°C followed by 30 seconds at 60°C followed by 30 seconds at 72°C. A final extension was carried out for 7 minutes at 72°C. PCR fragments were isolated from agarose gels and purified using a Qiaquick® gel extraction kit (Qiagen, Cat. No. #28706). DNA was resuspended in sterile water and used for the final PCR reaction to prepare full-length product.

Preparation 1b: DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N,Y39T, P57V,W58N,P60T,Q67N,L69T] was constructed as follows:

DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,Q67N,L69T] was subcloned into pJB02 to create pJB02G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,Q67N,L69T] and pJB02G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,P57V,W58N,P60T] served as the template for strand overlapping expression PCR. JCB155 and JCB136 served as the A and B primers and JCB137 and JCB135 served as the C and D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA was prepared as described previously using JCB155 and JCB134 primers. The resulting full-length DNA encodes a protein with consensus N-linked glycosylation sites in region 1, region 2, and region 9 of the protein (See Figure 1). The full-length cDNA was ligated back into pCR2.1-Topo to create pCR2.1G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,P57V,W58N,P60T,Q67N,L69T].

Preparation 1c: DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, S63N, P64T, E93N, I95T] was constructed as follows:

DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,E93N,I95T] was subcloned into pJB02 to create pJB02G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,E93N,I95T] and pJB02G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,E93N,I95T] served as the template for

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strand overlapping expression PCR. JCB155 and JCB132 served as the A and B primers and JCB133 and JCB135 served as the C and D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA was prepared as described previously using JCB155 and JCB135 primers. The resulting full-length DNA encodes a protein with consensus N-linked glycosylation sites in region 1, region 7, and region 10 of the protein (See Figure 1). The full-length cDNA was ligated back into pCR2.1-Topo to create pCR2.1G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, S63N, P64T, E93N, I95T].

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Preparation 1d: DNA encoding G-CSF[C17A] which is G-CSF wherein the amino acid at position 17 is substituted with Ala is constructed as follows:

The wild-type construct in the pCR2.1-Topo vector (pCR2.1G-CSF) serves as the PCR template for the C17A Strand ovelapping extension PCR is performed mutatgenesis. as described previously. CF177 and C17Arev serve as the A-B primers and C17Afor and CF176 serve as the C-D primers. full-length mutated cDNA is prepared as described previously using the CF177 and CF176 primers. The B and C primers are used to mutate the DNA such that a SacI restriction site is created and the protein expressed from the full-length sequence contains an Alanine instead of a Cysteine at position 17. The full-length cDNA is ligated back into the pCR2.1-Topo vector to create pCR2.1G-CSF[C17A] wherein the sequence is confirmed. G-CSF analog encoding DNA is then cloned into the Nhe/Xho sites of mammalian expression vector pJB02 to create pJB02G-CSF[C17A].

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Preparation 1e: DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N,Y39T] is constructed as follows:

Strand overlapping extension PCR is performed using pCR2.1G-CSF[C17A] as the template. Primers CF177 and A37Nrev serve as the A-B primers and CF176 and A37Nfor serve as the C-D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA is prepared as described previously using the CF177 and CF176 primers.

The B and C primers contain mismatched sequences such that a SpeI site is created in the DNA and the protein expressed from the full-length sequence contains a consensus sequence for N-linked glycosylation in region 1 of the protein. The full-length cDNA is ligated back into the pCR2.1-Topo vector to create pCR2.1G-CSF[A37N,Y39T] wherein the sequence is confirmed. G-CSF analog encoding DNA is then cloned into the Nhe/Xho sites of mammalian expression vector pJB02 to create pJB02G-CSF[A37N,Y39T].

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Preparation 1f: DNA encoding G-CSF[P57V,W58N,P60T] is constructed as follows:

Strand overlapping extension PCR is performed using pJB02G-CSF[C17A] as the template. Primers JCB128 and JCB136 serve as the A-B primers and JCB137 and JCB129 serve as the C-D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA is prepared as described previously using the JCB128 and JCB129 primers. The B and C primers contain mismatched sequences such that a HpaI site is created and the protein expressed from the full-length sequence contains a consensus sequence for N-linked glycosylation in region 2 of the protein. The full-length cDNA is ligated back into the pCR2.1-Topo vector to create pCR2.1G-CSF[P57V,W58N,P60T] wherein the sequence is confirmed. G-CSF analog encoding DNA is then cloned into the Nhe/Xho sites of mammalian expression vector pJB02 to create pJB02G-CSF[P57V,W58N,P60T].

Preparation 1g: DNA encoding G-CSF[P60N,S62T] is constructed as follows:

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Strand overlapping extension PCR is performed using pJB02G-CSF[C17A] as the template. Primers JCB128 and JCB130 serve as the A-B primers and JCB131 and JCB129 serve as the C-D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA is prepared as described previously using the JCB128 and JCB129 primers. The B and C primers contain mismatched sequences such that a SpeI site is created and the protein expressed from the

full-length sequence contains a consensus sequence for N-linked glycosylation in region 4 of the protein. The full-length cDNA is ligated back into the pCR2.1-Topo vector to create pCR2.1G-CSF[P60N,S62T] wherein the sequence is confirmed. G-CSF analog encoding DNA is then cloned into the Nhe/Xho sites of mammalian expression vector pJB02 to create pJB02G-CSF[P60N,S62T].

Preparation 1h: DNA encoding G-CSF[S63N,P65T] is constructed as follows:

Strand overlapping extension PCR is performed using pJB02G-CSF[C17A] as the template. Primers JCB128 and JCB132 serve as the A-B primers and JCB133 and JCB129 serve as the C-D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA is prepared as described previously using the JCB128 and JCB129 primers. The B and C primers contain mismatched sequences such that a MfeI site is created and the protein expressed from the full-length sequence contains a consensus sequence for N-linked glycosylation in region 7 of the protein. The full-length cDNA is ligated back into the pCR2.1-Topo vector to create pCR2.1G-CSF[S63N,P65T] wherein the sequence is confirmed. G-CSF analog encoding DNA is then cloned into the Nhe/Xho sites of mammalian expression vector pJB02 to create pJB02G-CSF[S63N,P65T].

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Preparation 1i: DNA encoding G-CSF[Q67N,L69T] is constructed as follows:

pJB02G-CSF[C17A] as the template. Primers JCB134 and JCB138 serve as the A-B primers and JCB139 and JCB135 serve as the C-D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA is prepared as described previously using the JCB128 and JCB129 primers. The B and C primers contain mismatched sequences such that a NaeI site is created and the protein expressed from the full-length sequence contains a consensus sequence for N-linked glycosylation in region 9 of the protein. The full-

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length cDNA is ligated back into the pCR2.1-Topo vector to create pCR2.1G-CSF[Q67N,L69T] wherein the sequence is confirmed. G-CSF analog encoding DNA is then cloned into the Nhe/Xho sites of mammalian expression vector pJB02 to create pJB02G-CSF[Q67N,L69T].

Preparation 1j: DNA encoding G-CSF[E93N, I95T] is constructed as follows:

Strand overlapping extension PCR is performed using pJB02G-CSF[C17A] as the template. Primers JCB134 and JCB140 serve as the A-B primers and JCB141 and JCB135 serve as the C-D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA is prepared as described previously using the JCB128 and JCB129 primers. The B and C primers contain mismatched sequences such that a BspEI site is created and the protein expressed from the full-length sequence contains a consensus sequence for N-linked glycosylation in region 10 of the protein. The full-length cDNA is ligated back into the pCR2.1-Topo vector to create pCR2.1G-CSF[E93N,I95T] wherein the sequence is confirmed. G-CSF analog encoding DNA is then cloned into the Nhe/Xho sites of mammalian expression vector pJB02 to create pJB02G-CSF[E93T,I95T].

Preparation 1k: DNA encoding G-CSF[T133N,G135T] is constructed as follows:

Strand overlapping extension PCR is performed using pCR2.1G-CSF[C17A] as the template. Primers CF177 and T133Nrev serve as the A-B primers and T133Nfor and CF176 serve as the C-D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA is prepared as described previously using the CF177 and CF176 primers. The B and C primers contain mismatched sequences such that an *Eco47III* site is created and the protein expressed from the full-length sequence contains a consensus sequence for N-linked glycosylation in region 13 of the protein. The full-length cDNA is ligated back into the

pCR2.1-Topo vector to create pCR2.1G-CSF[T133N,G135T] wherein the sequence is confirmed.

Preparation 11: DNA encoding G-CSF[A141N,A143T] is constructed as follows:

Strand overlapping extension PCR is performed using pCR2.1G-CSF[C17A] as the template. Primers CF177 and A141Nrev serve as the A-B primers and A141Nfor and CF176 serve as the C-D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA is prepared as described previously using the CF177 and CF176 primers. The B and C primers contain mismatched sequences such that an SapI site is created and the protein expressed from the full-length sequence contains a consensus sequence for N-linked glycosylation in region 14 of the protein. The full-length cDNA is ligated back into the pCR2.1-Topo vector to create pCR2.1G-CSF[A141N,A143T] wherein the sequence is confirmed.

Preparation 1m: DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, T133N, G135T] is constructed as follows:

A 210 bp insert containing G-CSF[A37N,Y39T] is isolated from pCR2.1G-CSF[A37N,Y39T] using EcoNI. This fragment is ligated into pCR2.1G-CSF[T133N,G135T] which is prepared by cleavage with EcoNI and subsequent isolation of the vector (4359 bp) from a 210 bp fragment containing wild-type G-CSF sequences. This ligation creates pCR2.1G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,T133N,G135T]. Analog encoding DNA is then subcloned into pJB02 using NheI/XhoI to create pJB02G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,T133N,G135T].

Preparation 1n: DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, A141N, A143T] is constructed as follows:

A 210 bp insert containing G-CSF[A37N,Y39T] is isolated from pCR2.1G-CSF[A37N,Y39T] using *EcoNI*. This fragment is ligated into pCR2.1G-CSF[A141N,A143T] which is prepared by cleavage with *EcoNI* and subsequent isolation of the vector

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(4359 bp) from a 210 bp fragment containing wild-type G-CSF sequences. This ligation creates pCR2.1G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,A141N,A143T]. Analog encoding DNA is then subcloned into pJB02 using NheI/XhoI to create pJB02G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,A141N,A143T].

Preparation 1o: DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,P57V,W58N,P60T] is constructed as follows:

DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N, Y39T] is subcloned into pJB02 to create pJB02G-CSF[A37N, Y39T] and pJB02G-CSF[A37N, Y39T] serves as the template for strand overlapping expression PCR. JCB128 and JCB136 serve as the A and B primers and JCB137 and JCB129 serve as the C and D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA is prepared as described previously using JCB128 and JCB129 primers. The resulting full-length DNA encodes a protein with consensus N-linked glycosylation sites in region 1 and region 2 of the protein. The full-length cDNA is ligated back into pCR2.1-Topo to create pCR2.1G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T].

Preparation 1p: DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,Q67N,L69T] is constructed as follows:

DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N, Y39T] is subcloned into pJB02 to create pJB02G-CSF[A37N, Y39T] and pJB02G-CSF[A37N, Y39T] serves as the template for strand overlapping expression PCR. JCB134 and JCB138 serve as the A and B primers and JCB139 and JCB135 serve as the C and D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA is prepared as described previously using JCB128 and JCB129 primers. The resulting full-length DNA encodes a protein with consensus N-linked glycosylation sites in region 1 and region 9 of the protein. The full-length cDNA is ligated back into pCR2.1-Topo to create pCR2.1G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, Q67N, L69T].

Preparation 1q: DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,E93N,I95T] is constructed as follows:

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DNA encoding G-CSF[A37N,Y39T] is subcloned into pJB02 to create pJB02G-CSF[A37N,Y39T] and pJB02G-CSF[A37N,Y39T] serves as the template for strand overlapping expression PCR. JCB134 and JCB140 serve as the A and B primers and JCB141 and JCB135 serve as the C and D primers. The full-length mutated cDNA is prepared as described previously using JCB128 and JCB129 primers. The resulting full-length DNA encodes a protein with consensus N-linked glycosylation sites in region 1 and region 10 of the protein. The full-length cDNA is ligated back into pCR2.1-Topo to create pCR2.1G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,E93N,I95T].

Various mutated G-CSF polypeptides were then ligated in-frame directly to DNA encoding IgG1 or IgG4. Various mutated G-CSF polypeptides were also ligated in-frame via DNA encoding a peptide linker or directly to human albumin.

Example 2: Expression of heterologus fusion proteins:

2a: Expression in 293/EBNA cells:

Each full-length DNA encoding a heterologous fusion protein was cloned into the pJB02. This vector contains both the Ori P and Epstein Barr virus nuclear antigen (EBNA) components which are necessary for sustained, transient expression in 293 EBNA cells. Further, this expression plasmid contains a puromycin resistance gene expressed from the CMV promoter as well as an ampicillin resistance gene. The gene of interest is also expressed from the CMV promoter.

The transfection mixture was prepared by mixing 73 µl of the liposome transfection agent Fugene 6® (Roche Molecular Biochemicals, Cat. No. 1815-075) with 820 µl Opti-Mem® (GibcoBRL Cat. No. 31985-062). G-CSF pJB02 DNA (12µg), prepared using a Qiagen plasmid maxiprep kit (Qiagen, Cat. No. 12163), was then added to the mixture.

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The mixture was incubated at room temperature for 15 minutes.

Cells were plated on 10 cm² plates in DMEM/F12 3:1 (GibcoBRL Cat. No. 93-0152DK) supplemented with 5% fetal bovine serum, 20mM HEPES, 2 mM L-glutamine, and 50 µg/mL Geneticin such that the plates were 60% to 80% confluent by the time of the transfection. Immediately before the transfection mixture was added to the plates, fresh media was added. The mixture was then added dropwise to cells with intermittent swirling. Plates were then incubated at 37°C in a 5% CO₂ atmosphere for 24 hours at which point the media was changed to hybritech medium without serum. The media containing a secreted form of a glycosylated G-CSF analog was then isolated 48 hours later.

2b: Expression in CHO cells:

The expression vector for expression in CHO-K1 cells is pEE14.1. This vector includes the glutamine synthetase gene which enables selection using methionine sulfoximine. This gene includes two poly A signals at the 3' end. G-CSF analogs are expressed from the CMV promoter which includes 5' untranslated sequences from the hCMV-MIE gene to enhance mRNA levels and translatability. The SV40 poly A signal is cloned 3' of the fusion protein DNA. The SV40 late promoter drives expression of GS minigene. This expression vector encoding the gene of interest is prepared for transfection using a QIAGEN Maxi Prep Kit (QIAGEN, Cat. No. 12362). The final DNA pellet (50-100 μ g) is resuspended in 100 μ l of basal formulation medium (GibcoBRL CD-CHO Medium without L-Glutamine, without thymidine, without hypoxanthine).

Before each transfection, CHO-K1 cells are counted and checked for viability. A volume equal to 1 x 10^7 cells is centrifuged and the cell pellet rinsed with basal formulation medium. The cells are centrifuged a second time and the final pellet resuspended in basal formulation medium (700 μ l final volume).

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The resuspended DNA and cells are then mixed together in a standard electroporation cuvette (Gene Pulsar Cuvette) used to support mammalian transfections, and placed on ice for five minutes. The cell/DNA mix is then electroporated in a BioRad Gene Pulsar device set at $300V/975~\mu F$ and the cuvette placed back on ice for five minutes. The cell/DNA mixed is diluted into 20 ml of cell growth medium in a nontissue culture treated T75 flask and incubated at $37^{\circ}C$ / 5° CO_2 for 48-72 hours.

The cells are counted, checked for viability, and plated at various cell densities in selective medium in 96 well tissue culture plates and incubated at 37°C in a 5% CO₂ atmosphere. Selective medium is basal medium with 1X HT Supplement (GibcoBRL 100X HT Stock), 100 µg/mL Dextran Sulfate (Sigma 100 mg/ml stock), 1X GS Supplements (JRH BioSciences 50X Stock) and 25 µM MSX (Methionine Sulphoximine). The plates are monitored for colony formation and screened for glycosylated G-CSF analog production.

Example 3: Purification of Heterologous Fusion Proteins

Heterologous fusion proteins containing a hyperglycosylated G-CSF protein fused to albumin were harvested from host cells and then dialyzed against 20 mM Tris pH 7.4. An anion exchange column (1 ml Pharmacia HiTrap Q) was equilibrated with 20 mM Tris pH 7.4 and the dialyzed material loaded at 2 ml/min. The protein was eluted from the column using a linear gradient from 0 to 500 mM NaCl in 80 min at 1 ml/min and elution was monitored by UV absorbance at 280 mm. SDS-PAGE analysis was used to identify and pool fractions of interest. This pool was dialyzed against 25 mM sodium acetate (NaOAc) pH 5.0

A cation exchange column (1 ml Pharmacia HiTrap S column) was equilibrated with 25 mM NaOAc pH 5.0 and the dialysate was loaded at 1 ml/min. The protein was eluted

from the column using a linear gradient from 0 to 500 mM NaCl in 30 min. The fractions were immediately neutralized with 1 M Tris pH 8 to a final pH of 7. SDS-PAGE gels were used to identify and pool fractions of interest.

Heterologous fusion proteins containing a hyperglycosylated G-CSF protein fused to an Fc protein were harvested from host cells and dialyzed against 20 mM sodium phosphate pH 7.0. An affinity column (1 ml Pharmacia HiTrap Protein A or rProtein A) was equilibrated with 20 mM sodium phosphate pH 7.0 and the dialysate was loaded at 2 ml/min. 1 ml/min of 100 mM citric acid pH 3 was used to elute the protein. Fractions were immediately neutralized with 1M Tris pH 8 to pH 7 and peak fractions (determined by in-line OD280 monitoring) were further diluted with 20 mM sodium phosphate pH 7.0. . SDS-PAGE analysis was used to identify and pool fractions of interest.

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WE CLAIM:

- A heterologous fusion protein comprising a
 hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog fused to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of
 - a) human albumin;
 - b) human albumin analogs; and
 - c) fragments of human albumin.

- 2. The heterologous fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog is fused to the polypeptide via a peptide linker.
- 15 3. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 2 wherein the peptide linker is selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a glycine rich peptide;
 - b) a peptide having the sequence [Gly-Gly-Gly-Gly-Ser]_n where n is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; and
 - c) a peptide having the sequence [Gly-Gly-Gly-Ser]₃.
 - 4. The heterologous fusion protein of Claims 1, 2, or 3 wherein the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog comprises the amino acid sequence of the formula I: [SEQ ID NO: 1]
 - 1 5 10 15
 Thr Pro Leu Gly Pro Ala Ser Ser Leu Pro Gln Ser Phe Leu Leu Lys
 20 25 30
- 30 Xaa Leu Glu Gln Val Arg Lys Ile Gln Gly Asp Gly Ala Ala Leu Gln
 35 40 45
 Glu Lys Leu Cys Xaa Xaa Xaa Lys Leu Cys His Pro Glu Glu Leu Val
 50 55 60
- Leu Leu Gly His Ser Leu Gly Ile Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa 35 65 70 75 80

 Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Gln Leu Ala Gly Cys Leu Ser Gln Leu His Ser 85 90 95

 Gly Leu Phe Leu Tyr Gln Gly Leu Leu Gln Ala Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa Ser
- 40 Xaa Glu Leu Gly Pro Thr Leu Asp Thr Leu Gln Leu Asp Val Ala Asp 115 120 125

 Phe Ala Thr Thr Ile Trp Gln Gln Met Glu Glu Leu Gly Met Ala Pro 130 135 140
- Ala Leu Gln Pro Xaa Xaa Ala Met Pro Ala Phe Xaa Xaa Xaa Phe 45 145 150 155 160

Gln Arg Arg Ala Gly Gly Val Leu Val Ala Ser His Leu Aln Ser Phe 170 Leu Glu Val Ser Tyr Arg Val Leu Arg His Leu Ala Gln Pro (I)

wherein: Xaa at position 17 is Cys, Ala, Leu, Ser, or Glu; Xaa at position 37 is Ala or Asn; Xaa at position 38 is Thr, or any other amino acid except Pro;

Xaa at position 39 is Tyr, Thr, or Ser; 10 Xaa at position 57 is Pro or Val; Xaa at position 58 is Trp or Asn; Xaa at position 59 is Ala or any other amino acid except Pro;

Xaa at position 60 is Pro, Thr, Asn, or Ser, 15 Xaa at position 61 is Leu, or any other amino acid except Xaa at position 62 is Ser or Thr;

Xaa at position 63 is Ser or Asn;

Xaa at position 64 is Cys or any other amino acid except 20 Pro;

Xaa at position 65 is Pro, Ser, or Thr;

Xaa at position 66 is Ser or Thr; Xaa at position 67 is Gln or Asn;

Xaa at position 68 is Ala or any other amino acid except 25 Pro;

Xaa at position 69 is Leu, Thr, or Ser

Xaa at position 93 is Glu or Asn

Xaa at position 94 is Gly or any other amino acid except

30 Pro;

Xaa at position 95 is Ile, Asn, Ser, or Thr;

Xaa at position 97 is Pro, Ser, Thr, or Asn;

Xaa at position 133 is Thr or Asn;

Xaa at position 134 is Gln or any other amino acid except

35 Pro;

Xaa at position 135 is Gly, Ser, or Thr

Xaa at position 141 is Ala or Asn;

Xaa at position 142 is Ser or any other amino acid except Pro; and

Xaa at position 143 is Ala, Ser, or Thr; 40

and wherein:

Xaa at positions 37, 38, and 39 constitute region 1; Xaa at positions 58, 59, and 60 constitute region 2;

Xaa at positions 59, 60, and 61 constitute region 3; 45

Xaa at positions 60, 61, and 62 constitute region 4;

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Xaa	at	positions	61,	62,	and	63	cons	titut	:e	region	5;
Xaa	at	positions	62,	63,	and	64	cons	titut	:e	region	6;
Xaa	at	positions	63,	64,	and	65	cons	titut	:e	region	7;
Xaa	at	positions	64,	65,	and	66	cons	titut	:e	region	8;
Xaa	at	positions	67,	68,	and	69	cons	titut	:e	region	9;
Xaa	at	positions	93,	94,	and	95	cons	titut	:e	region	10
Xaa	at	positions	94,	95,	and	Şer	at	posit	io	n 96	
constitute region 11;											
Xaa	at	positions	95,	and	97,	and	l Ser	at p	os	ition 9	96
constitute region 12;											
Xaa	at	positions	133,	134	l, ar	nd 1	L35 c	onsti	tu	te	
	re	egion 13;									

and provided that at least one of regions 1 through 14 comprises the sequence Asn Xaal Xaa2 wherein Xaal is any amino acid except Pro and Xaa2 is Ser or Thr.

20 5. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 4 wherein any two regions of regions 1 through 14 comprise the sequence Asn Xaa1 Xaa2 wherein Xaa1 is any amino acid except Pro and Xaa2 is Ser or Thr.

Xaa at positions 141, 142, and 143 constitute

region 14;

- 25 6. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 4 wherein any three regions of regions 1 through 14 comprise the sequence Asn Xaal Xaa2 wherein Xaal is any amino acid except Pro and Xaa2 is Ser or Thr.
- 7. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 4 wherein any four regions of regions 1 through 14 comprise the sequence Asn Xaal Xaa2 wherein Xaal is any amino acid except Pro and Xaa2 is Ser or Thr

- 8. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 4 wherein the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog is selected from the group consisting of:
- a) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T]
- 5 b) G-CSF[P57V, W58N, P60T]
 - c) G-CSF[P60N, S62T]
 - d) G-CSF[S63N, P65T]
 - e) G-CSF[Q67N,L69T]
 - f) G-CSF[E93N, I95T]
- 10 g) G-CSF[T133N,G135T]
 - h) G-CSF[A141N, A143T]
 - i) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T]
 - j) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P60N, S62T]
 - k) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, S63N, P65T]
- 15 1) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, Q67N, L69T]
 - m) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, E93N, I95T]
 - n) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, T133N, G135T]
 - o) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, A141N, A143T]
 - p) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T, S63N, P65T]
- 20 q) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T, Q67N, L69T]
 - r) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, S63N, P65T, E93N, I95T]
 - 9. The heterologous fusion protein of claim 8, wherein the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog is G-CSF[A37N,
- 25 Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T, Q67N, L69T].
 - 10. The heterologous fusion protein of claim 8, wherein the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog is G-CSF[A37N,Y39T,S63N,P65T,E93N,I95T].
 - 11. A heterologous fusion protein which is the product of the expression in a host cell of an exogenous DNA sequence which comprises a DNA sequence encoding a heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 1 through 10.

- A polynucleotide encoding a heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 1 through 11.
- A polynucleotide which comprises a DNA sequence
- 5 selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) SEQ ID NO:2
 - b) SEQ ID NO:3
 - c) SEQ ID NO:4
 - d) SEQ ID NO:5
- 10 e) SEQ ID NO:6
 - f) SEQ ID NO:7
 - g) SEQ ID NO:8
 - h) SEO ID NO:9
 - i) SEQ ID NO:10
 - j) SEQ ID NO:11
- 15

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- k) SEQ ID NO:12
- 1) SEQ ID NO:13
- m). SEQ ID NO:14
- n) SEQ ID NO:15
- 20 SEQ ID NO:16, 0)

fused in-frame to a DNA encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of:

- a) human albumin,
- b) human albumin analog; and
- c) fragments of human albumin.
- The polynucleotide of Claim 13, wherein the DNA fused in-frame comprises SEQ ID NO: 17.
- 30 The heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 1 through 11 wherein the polypeptide is human albumin.
- 16. The heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 1 through 11 wherein the polypeptide is an N-terminal fragment of albumin. 35
 - A method for increasing neutrophil levels in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 1

40 through 11, 15 and 16.

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- 18. The use of the heterologous fusion protein as claimed in any one of Claims 1 through 11, 15 and 16 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of patients with insufficient circulating neutrophil levels.
- 19. Use of a heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 1 through 11, 15, and 16 as a medicament.
- 10 20. Use of a heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 1 through 11, 15, and 16 for the treatment of patients with insufficient circulating neutrophil levels.
- 21. A pharmaceutical formulation adapted for the treatment of patients with insufficient neutrophil levels comprising a heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 1 through 11, 15, and 16.
 - 22. A heterologous fusion protein comprising a hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog fused to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin;
 - b) an analog of the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin; and
 - c) fragments of the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin.
 - 23. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 22, wherein the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog is fused to the polypeptide via a peptide linker.
 - 24. The heterologous fusion protein of the Claim 23 wherein the peptide linker is selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a glycine rich peptide;
 b) a peptide having the sequence [Gly-Gly-Gly-Gly-Ser]_n where n is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; and
 - c) a peptide having the sequence [Gly-Gly-Gly-Gly-Ser]3.

25. The heterologous fusion protein of Claims 22, 23 or 24, wherein the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog comprises the amino acid sequence of the formula I: [SEQ ID NO: 1]

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    Thr Pro Leu Gly Pro Ala Ser Ser Leu Pro Gln Ser Phe Leu Leu Lys
    Xaa Leu Glu Gln Val Arg Lys Ile Gln Gly Asp Gly Ala Ala Leu Gln
     Glu Lys Leu Cys Xaa Xaa Xaa Lys Leu Cys His Pro Glu Glu Leu Val
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    Leu Leu Gly His Ser Leu Gly Ile Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa
                       70
    Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Gln Leu Ala Gly Cys Leu Ser Gln Leu His Ser
15
                                     90
     Gly Leu Phe Leu Tyr Gln Gly Leu Leu Gln Ala Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa Ser
                                  105
     Xaa Glu Leu Gly Pro Thr Leu Asp Thr Leu Gln Leu Asp Val Ala Asp
                              120
     Phe Ala Thr Thr Ile Trp Gln Gln Met Glu Glu Leu Gly Met Ala Pro
20
                           135
     Ala Leu Gln Pro Xaa Xaa Xaa Ala Met Pro Ala Phe Xaa Xaa Xaa Phe
                                         155
                       150
     Gln Arg Arg Ala Gly Gly Val Leu Val Ala Ser His Leu Aln Ser Phe
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     Leu Glu Val Ser Tyr Arg Val Leu Arg His Leu Ala Gln Pro
     wherein:
     Xaa at position 17 is Cys, Ala, Leu, Ser, or Glu;
    Xaa at position 37 is Ala or Asn;
     Xaa at position 38 is Thr, or any other amino acid except
     Pro;
     Xaa at position 39 is Tyr, Thr, or Ser;
     Xaa at position 57 is Pro or Val;
     Xaa at position 58 is Trp or Asn;
     Xaa at position 59 is Ala or any other amino acid except
     Pro;
     Xaa at position 60 is Pro, Thr, Asn, or Ser,
     Xaa at position 61 is Leu, or any other amino acid except
40 · Pro;
     Xaa at position 62 is Ser or Thr;
     Xaa at position 63 is Ser or Asn;
     Xaa at position 64 is Cys or any other amino acid except
     Pro;
     Xaa at position 65 is Pro, Ser, or Thr;
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     Xaa at position 66 is Ser or Thr;
     Xaa at position 67 is Gln or Asn;
     Xaa at position 68 is Ala or any other amino acid except
     Pro;
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     Xaa at position 69 is Leu, Thr, or Ser
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Xaa at position 94 is Gly or any other amino acid except Pro;
Xaa at position 95 is Ile, Asn, Ser, or Thr;

5 Xaa at position 97 is Pro, Ser, Thr, or Asn;
Xaa at position 133 is Thr or Asn;
Xaa at position 134 is Gln or any other amino acid except Pro;
Xaa at position 135 is Gly, Ser, or Thr

10 Xaa at position 141 is Ala or Asn;
Xaa at position 142 is Ser or any other amino acid except Pro; and
Xaa at position 143 is Ala, Ser, or Thr;

15 and wherein:

Xaa at positions 37, 38, and 39 constitute region 1:

Xaa at position 93 is Glu or Asn

constitute region 11;

Xaa at positions 95, and 97, and Ser at position 96

constitute region 12;

Xaa at positions 133, 134, and 135 constitute
 region 13;

Xaa at positions 141, 142, and 143 constitute
 region 14;

and provided that at least one of regions 1 through 14 comprises the sequence Asn Xaal Xaa2 wherein Xaal is any amino acid except Pro and Xaa2 is Ser or Thr.

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- 26. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 25 wherein any two regions of regions 1 through 14 comprise the sequence Asn Xaal Xaa2 wherein Xaal is any amino acid except Pro and Xaa2 is Ser or Thr.
- 27. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 25 wherein any three regions of regions 1 through 14 comprise the sequence Asn Xaal Xaa2 wherein Xaal is any amino acid except Pro and Xaa2 is Ser or Thr.
- 28. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 25 wherein any four regions of regions 1 through 14 comprise the sequence Asn Xaal Xaa2 wherein Xaal is any amino acid except Pro and Xaa2 is Ser or Thr
- 29. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 25 wherein the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog is selected from the group consisting of:
- 20 a) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T]
 - b) G-CSF[P57V,W58N,P60T]
 - c) G-CSF[P60N,S62T]
 - d) G-CSF[S63N, P65T]
 - e) G-CSF[Q67N,L69T]
- 25 f) G-CSF[E93N, 195T]
 - g) G-CSF[T133N,G135T]
 - h) G-CSF[A141N, A143T]
 - i) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T]
 - j) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P60N, S62T]
- .30 k) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, S63N, P65T]
 - 1) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, Q67N, L69T]
 - m) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, E93N, I95T]
 - n) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, T133N, G135T]
 - o) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, A141N, A143T]
- 35 p) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T, S63N, P65T]
 - g) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T, Q67N, L69T]

- r) G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, S63N, P65T, E93N, I95T]
- 30. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 29 wherein the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog is G-
- 5 CSF[A37N, Y39T, P57V, W58N, P60T, Q67N, L69T]
 - 31. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 29 wherein the hyperglycosylated G-CSF analog is G-CSF[A37N, Y39T, S63N, P65T, E93N, I95T]
 - 32. The heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 22 through 31 wherein the polypeptide is the Fc portion of an Ig selected from the group consisting of: IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgE, IgA, IgD, or IgM.
 - 33. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 32 wherein the polypeptide is the Fc portion of an Ig selected from the group consisting of: IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, and IgG4.
- 20 34. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 33 wherein the polypeptide is the Fc portion of an IgG1 immunoglobulin.
 - 35. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 33 wherein the polypeptide is the Fc portion of an IgG4
- 25 immunoglobulin.
 - 36. The heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 22 through 35 wherein the Fc portion is a human IgG protein.
- 30 37. The heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 22 through 36 wherein the Fc portion comprises hinge, CH2, and CH3 domains.
- 38. The heterologous fusion protein of Claim 34 wherein the polypeptide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33.

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- 39. A polynucleotide encoding a heterologous fusion protein of Claim 34, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 22.
- 5 40. A polynucleotide encoding a heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 22 through 38.
 - 41. A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 12, 13, 14, 39 and 40.
 - 42. A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 41.
 - 43. A host cell expressing at least one heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 1 through 11, 15, 16, and 22 through 38.
 - 44. The host cell of Claim 43 wherein said host cell is a CHO cell.
- 20 45. A process for producing a heterologous fusion protein comprising the steps of transcribing and translating a polynucleotide of Claim 40 under conditions wherein the heterologous fusion protein is expressed in detectable amounts.
 - 46. A method for increasing neutrophil levels in a mammal comprising the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of the heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 27 through 36.
 - 47. The use of the heterologous fusion protein as claimed in any one of Claims 22 through 29 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of patients with insufficient circulating neutrophil levels.

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Use of a heterologous fusion protein of any one of

- Claims 22 through 29 as a medicament.
- 49. Use of a heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 22 through 29 for the treatment of patients with insufficient circulating neutrophil levels.
- 50. A pharmaceutical formulation adapted for the treatment of patients with insufficient neutrophil levels comprising a heterologous fusion protein of any one of Claims 22 through 29.
- 51. A heterologous fusion protein as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

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Abstract

The present invention encompasses heterologous fusion proteins comprising a hyperglycsoylated G-CSF analog fused to proteins such as albumin and the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin which act to extend the in vivo half-life of the protein compared to native G-CSF. These fusion proteins are particularly suited for the treatment of conditions treatable by stimulation of circulating neutrophils, such as after chemotherapy regimens or in chronic congenital neutropenia.

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Fig. 1

1/1

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Gly Leu Phe Leu Tyr Gln Gly Leu Leu Gln Ala Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa Ser Xaa

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130 R13 135 140 R14

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Kuchibhotla, Uma
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Gly Leu Phe Leu Tyr Gln Gly Leu Leu Gln Ala Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa Ser 85 90 95

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Phe Ala Thr Thr Ile Trp Gln Gln Met Glu Glu Leu Gly Met Ala Pro 115 120 125

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W) 훽 ü W

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	Cys	Tyr 370	Ala	Lys	Val	Phe	Asp 375	Glu	Phe	Lys	Pro	Leu 380	Val	Glu	Glu	Pro
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703

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្ហីatctccaaag ccaaagggca gccccgagaa ccacaggtgt acaccctgcc cccatcccgg ្ជី420

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Glu Lys Leu Cys Ala Thr Tyr Lys Leu Cys His Pro Glu Glu Leu Val 35 40 45

Leu Leu Gly His Ser Leu Gly Ile Pro Trp Ala Pro Leu Ser Ser Cys 50 55 60

Pro Ser Gln Ala Leu Gln Leu Ala Gly Cys Leu Ser Gln Leu His Ser 65 70 75 80

Gly Leu Phe Leu Tyr Gln Gly Leu Leu Gln Ala Leu Glu Gly Ile Ser 85 90 95

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Ala Leu Glu Gln Val Arg Lys Ile Gln Gly Asp Gly Ala Ala Leu Gln Page 41

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	Pro 65	Ser	Gln	Ala	Leu	Gln 70	Leu	Ala	Gly	Cys	Leu 75	Ser	Gln	Leu	His	Ser 80
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Arg Val Val Ser Val Leu Thr Val Leu His Gln Asp Trp Leu Asn Gly 260 265 270

Lys Glu Tyr Lys Cys Lys Val Ser Asn Lys Gly Leu Pro Ser Ser Ile 275 280 285

Glu Lys Thr Ile Ser Lys Ala Lys Gly Gln Pro Arg Glu Pro Gln Val 290 295 300

ៗTyr Thr Leu Pro Pro Ser Gln Glu Glu Met Thr Lys Asn Gln Val Ser រៀ305 310 315 320

Leu Thr Cys Leu Val Lys Gly Phe Tyr Pro Ser Asp Ile Ala Val Glu 325 330 335

管Trp Glu Ser Asn Gly Gln Pro Glu Asn Asn Tyr Lys Thr Thr Pro Pro は 340 345 350 記

집Val Leu Asp Ser Asp Gly Ser Phe Phe Leu Tyr Ser Arg Leu Thr Val 집 355 360 365

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Leu Leu Gly His Ser Leu Gly Ile Pro Trp Ala Pro Leu Ser Ser Cys

四部三四部 二部 Pro Ser Gln Ala Leu Gln Leu Ala Gly Cys Leu Ser Gln Leu His Ser 75 65

Gly Leu Phe Leu Tyr Gln Gly Leu Leu Gln Ala Leu Glu Gly Ile Ser 85 90

Pro Glu Leu Gly Pro Thr Leu Asp Thr Leu Gln Leu Asp Val Ala Asp 100 110

Phe Ala Thr Thr Ile Trp Gln Gln Met Glu Glu Leu Gly Met Ala Pro 115 125 120

Ala Leu Gln Pro Thr Gln Gly Ala Met Pro Ala Phe Ala Ser Ala Phe

Gln Arg Arg Ala Gly Gly Val Leu Val Ala Ser His Leu Gln Ser Phe 145 150 155 160

Leu Glu Val Ser Tyr Arg Val Leu Arg His Leu Ala Gln Pro Gly Gly Gly Gly Ser Gly Gly Gly Ser Gly Gly Gly Ser Asp Ala His Lys Ser Glu Val Ala His Arg Phe Lys Asp Leu Gly Glu Glu Asn Phe Lys Ala Leu Val Leu Ile Ala Phe Ala Gln Tyr Leu Gln Gln Cys Pro Phe Glu Asp His Val Lys Leu Val Asn Glu Val Thr Glu Phe Ala Lys Thr Cys Val Ala Asp Glu Ser Ala Glu Asn Cys Asp Lys Ser Leu His 🗊 Thr Leu Phe Gly Asp Lys Leu Cys Thr Val Ala Thr Leu Arg Glu Thr 🜬 Tyr Gly Glu Met Ala Asp Cys Cys Ala Lys Gln Glu Pro Glu Arg Asn # Glu Cys Phe Leu Gln His Lys Asp Asp Asn Pro Asn Leu Pro Arg Leu 🌃 Val Arg Pro Glu Val Asp Val Met Cys Thr Ala Phe His Asp Asn Glu ΓÜ Glu Thr Phe Leu Lys Lys Tyr Leu Tyr Glu Ile Ala Arg Arg His Pro Tyr Phe Tyr Ala Pro Glu Leu Leu Phe Phe Ala Lys Arg Tyr Lys Ala Ala Phe Thr Glu Cys Cys Gln Ala Ala Asp Lys Ala Ala Cys Leu Leu Page 45

355

365

Pro Lys Leu Asp Glu Leu Arg Asp Glu Gly Lys Ala Ser Ser Ala Lys 370 375 380

Gln Arg Leu Lys Cys Ala Ser Leu Gln Lys Phe Gly Glu Arg Ala Phe

Lys Ala Trp Ala Val Ala Arg Leu Ser Gln Arg Phe Pro Lys Ala Glu 410

Phe Ala Glu Val Ser Lys Leu Val Thr Asp Leu Thr Lys Val His Thr 420 425 430

Glu Cys Cys His Gly Asp Leu Leu Glu Cys Ala Asp Asp Arg Ala Asp CAL CALL 435 440 . 445

Leu Ala Lys Tyr Ile Cys Glu Asn Gln Asp Ser Ile Ser Ser Lys Leu 450 455

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侧 <210>
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国
(211)
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   <212>
          DNA
   <213> Artificial Sequence
    <220>
          synthetic construct
    <223>
    <400>
           66
    gtcgacgcta gcggcgcgcc accatggccg gacctg
    36
```